(a) whether the emigration rules have been amended recently to the effect that the douments for emegration clearnace have to be routed through the recruitment agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons for affecting such a change;

(c) whether complaints have been received with regard to the revised procedure; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) and (b). It is not a fact that Emigration Rules, 1983 have been amended recently. With the simplification of emigration procedure on 4.10.91 by bringing six additional categories of workers under 'Emigration Check not Requlred' for a period of six months, persons falling in the above six categories seeking employment abroad are required to approach Protectors of Emigrants/Passport Authorities for such an endorsement through authorised Recruiting Agents. This has been done with a view to facilitating the movement of Indian workers for workers for employment abroad.

(c) and (d). No complaint has been received regarding the simplification of procedure referred to above. Suggestions relating to the procedural aspects received will be considered and appropriate action taken.

Corruption cases against Public Servants

2167. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has registered cases against public servants for corruption recently ; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the number of cases investigated by Central Bureau of investigation during the last six months?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) Yes, Sir, Central Bureau of Investigation have registered 20 cases against public servants, recently. Details of cases are given below:-

"They involve 10 officers of Government Departments and 19 officers of Public Sector Undertakings."

(b) During the last six months. 434 cases involving 670 public servants were registered and investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

Pension to Journalists

2168. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure pension to the working journalists; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). The Government had set up an Expert Group to work out a pension scheme for journalists and non-journalists employees of newspaper establishments. The two alternative pension schemes recommened by the Group which were subject to payment of monthly contribution at different rates were considered by the Central Board of Trustees of the

Employees' Provident Fund Organisation in their meeting held on August 20, 1990. In order to improve upon the features of the proposed scheme as well as its coverage, the Board set up a sub-committee to formulate a new pension Scheme applicable to all employees covered under the EPF & MP Act. The new pension scheme proposed by this sub- committee has been endorsed by the Board who have recommened the same to the Government.

Arrest of Hoarders

2169. SHRI V.S.VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hoarders arrested by the Union Government for hoarding essential commodities during this year, State-wise;

(b) the total amount confiscated from them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this tendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b). The number of persons arrested for violation of provisions of various control orders issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and value of essential commodities confiscated as a result of raids made during the year 1991, Statewise, as per reports received from the State Governments/UT Administrations upto 30.11.91, are indicated in the Statement below.

(c) Government has been emphasising upon States/ UTs the need for intensification of enforcement operations in the country and has urged them to take firm action against those indulging in hoarding or other malpractices.